

## 1.1 Summary

- According to the 2014-based population projections, Bolton's population is projected to increase by **9%** in the next 25 years, from 280,400 in 2014 to 306,300 in 2039. This is a total increase of **25,900** people, with an average gain of **1,036** people per year.
- This can be compared to a **22%** increase in Salford and a **5%** increase in Rochdale.
- The proportion of the population aged 65+ is projected to increase from 17% in 2014 to 23% in 2039; an increase of over **50%**, with the increase in people aged 85+ more than **135%**.
- The proportion of dependent children is projected to increase but at much lower rates; the proportion of working age people is projected to remain relatively stable. This is most likely attributable to changing patterns of both internal and international migration.
- Bolton is predicted to have a **10%** increase due to natural change, a slightly higher rate than England at **8%**. However there is also a **4%** decrease from internal migration, a **+4%** increase from international migration and a **0%** change from cross-border migration. This has been rounded to a **-0.4%** total net migration in Bolton.

## 1.2 Introduction

2014-based subnational population projections, (SNPPs), were published in June 2016. They project forward the mid 2014 population estimate to give an indication of future trends in the population by age and sex for districts for the next 25 years from 2014 to 2039. They replace the previous 2012-based projections.

## 1.3 Population Projections in Bolton

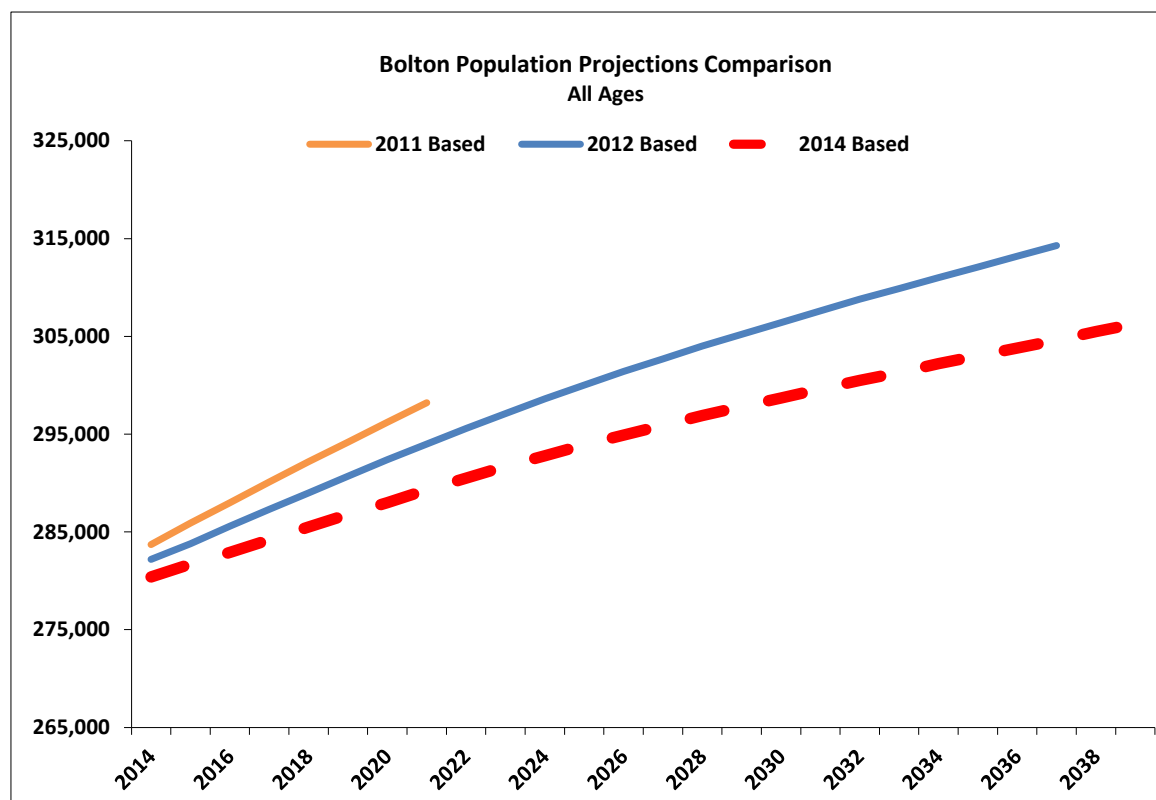
According to the 2014 based population projections, Bolton's population is projected to increase by **9.2%** in the next 25 years, from 280,400 in 2014 to 306,300 in 2039. This is a total increase of **25,900** people, with an average gain of **1,036** people per year.

	<b>2014 Based</b>	<b>2012 Based</b>	<b>2011 Based</b>
Total Population Increase	25,900	35,300	-
Percentage Increase (%)	9.2%	12.7%	-
Average per year	1,036	1,412	2,090

Source: Office for National Statistics, Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.

The 2014-based SNPPs project a significant decrease from previous projections published by the ONS.

For instance the 2011-based projections that were produced following the previous Census indicated a higher average increase of around **2,100** extra people per year, whilst the 2012-based projections estimated an average of **1,412**.



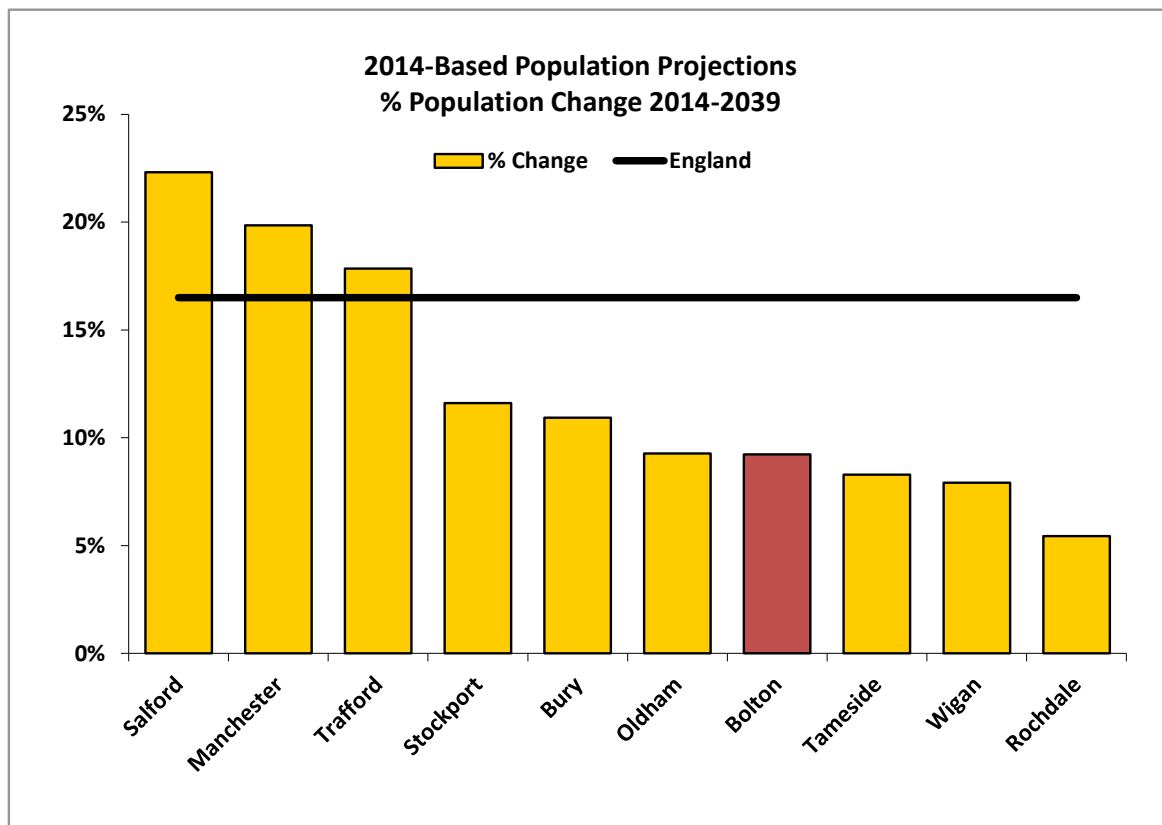
Source: Office for National Statistics, Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.

It is worth noting that information used in the 2014 & 2012-based subnational population projections is based on a historical population series rebased following the 2011 Census, while the trends used in the 2011-based subnational population projections are based on an older population series that did NOT fully reflect the findings of the 2011 Census. Other reasons for differences between the projections include:

- Changes in the population estimate, used as the base year in the projections, between mid-2011 and mid-2012,
- Changes in the trends (births, deaths and migration),
- Changes in assumptions for [international migration at a national level](#).

It also is worth noting the methodology behind population projections in order to understand these results better. All ONS SNPPs are based on **estimates**, (in this case the previous five years estimates of 2009-2014, revised following the results of the 2011 Census), and *project forward* previous demographic trends (births, deaths and migration), into the future. They are not forecasts and do not attempt to project the impact that future government or local policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour.

## 1.4 Population Projections in Greater Manchester



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2014-based Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.

According to the 2014 SNPP's Bolton's population is projected to increase by around 9% in 2014-39. This can be compared to 22% in **Salford** and just 5% in **Rochdale**. (Salford had the highest proportional increase; however Manchester had the largest total increase with almost an extra 103,300 people – equivalent to 4,132 a year. This was more than quadruple Bolton's projection).

	2014	2039	Total Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Increase
Salford	242,000	296,000	54,000	22%	2,160
Manchester	520,200	623,500	103,300	20%	4,132
Trafford	232,500	274,000	41,500	18%	1,660
Stockport	286,800	320,100	33,300	12%	1,332
Bury	187,500	208,000	20,500	11%	820
Oldham	228,800	250,000	21,200	9%	848
<b>Bolton</b>	<b>280,400</b>	<b>306,300</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1,036</b>
Tameside	220,800	239,100	18,300	8%	732
Wigan	321,000	346,400	25,400	8%	1,016
Rochdale	213,000	224,600	11,600	5%	464
Greater Manchester	2,732,900	3,087,900	355,000	13%	14,200
England	54,316,600	63,281,500	8,964,900	17%	358,596

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2014-based Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.

## 1.5 Population Projections by Age

Bolton's population is projected to increase by approximately 25,900 people in the next 25 years. However different age groups are projected to increase at slightly different rates. The projections indicate significant changes in Bolton's age & sex structure, which will impact on service provision within Bolton.

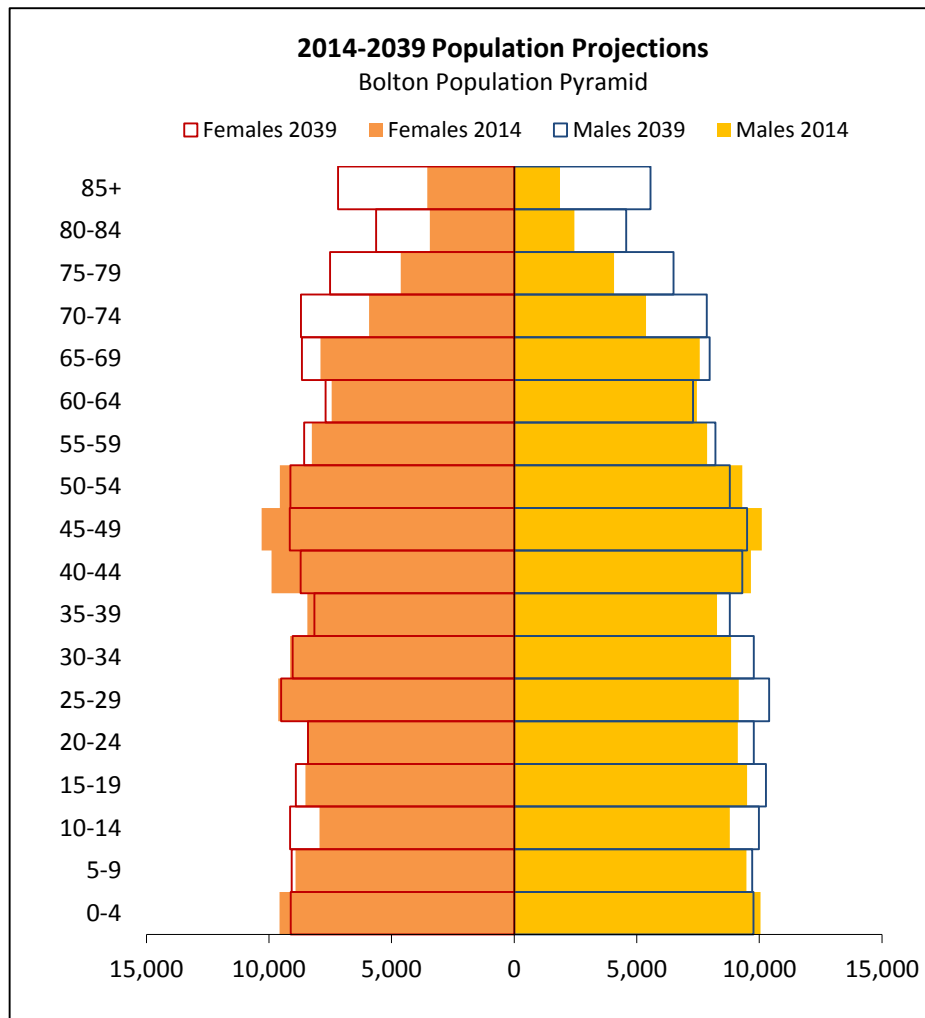
The proportion of the population aged 65 and above is projected to increase from 17% in 2014 to 23% in 2039. This means the number of older people will go from around 1 in 6 to almost 1 in 4 of the population over the next 25 years; an increase of **50%**. This is an average increase of almost 1,000 people of pensionable age each year, and can be mostly attributed to declining mortality rates and increasing life expectancy.

Conversely Bolton's working age population is projected to remain relatively stable until 2039 (with just an extra 200 people predicted in total), and the number of dependent children is projected to increase by **4%** throughout that period. This would give each age group an average increase per year of just 8 and 92 respectively. This means that around **90%** of projected population growth in Bolton in 2014-2039 can be attributed to people of pensionable age.

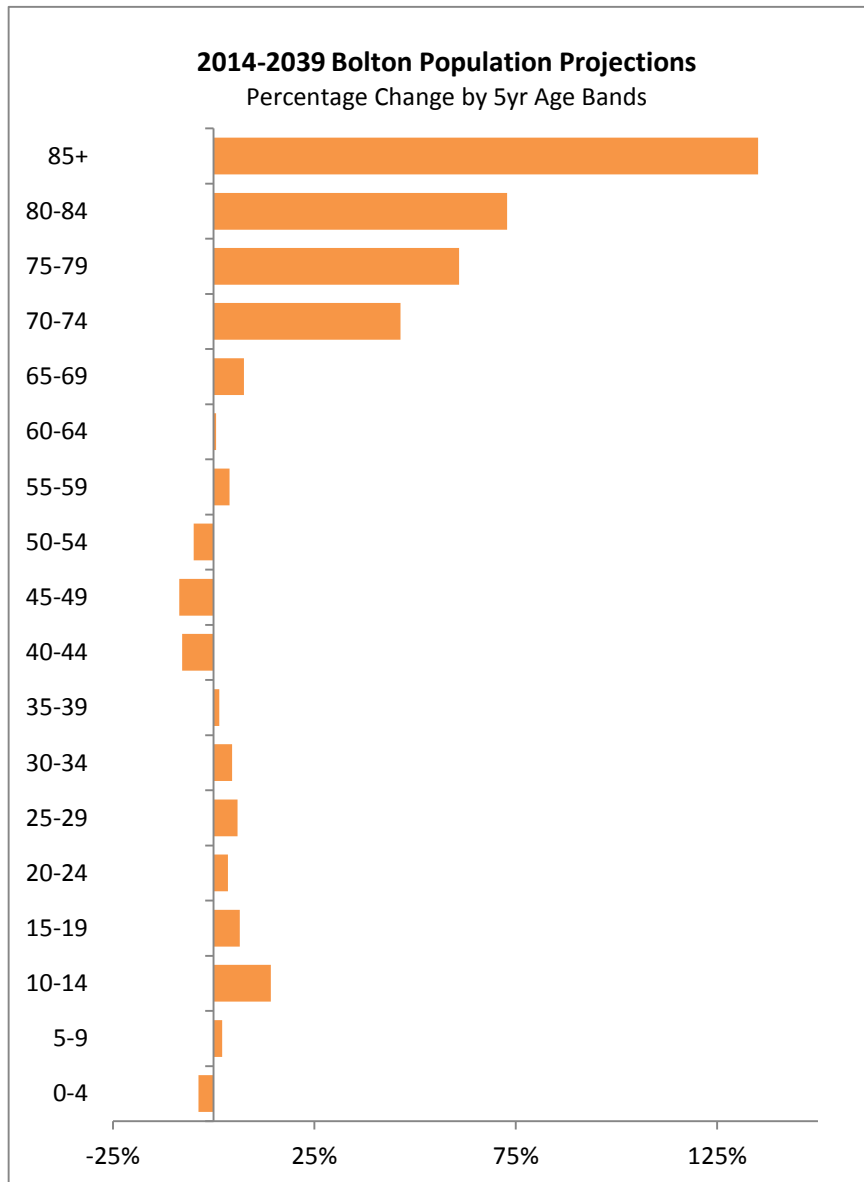
	2014		2039		Total Change	Percent Change	Average annual change
	Number	%	Number	%			
Ages 0-15	58,400	21%	60,700	20%	2,300	4%	92
Ages 16-64	175,200	62%	175,400	57%	200	0%	8
Ages 65+	46,800	17%	70,100	23%	23,300	50%	932

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2014-based Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.

The population pyramid & table shown below breaks down this change in more detail. In particular this shows the significant increase in the number of **extremely elderly people** in the borough aged 85+ who are estimated to increase by more than **135%**.



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2014-based Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.



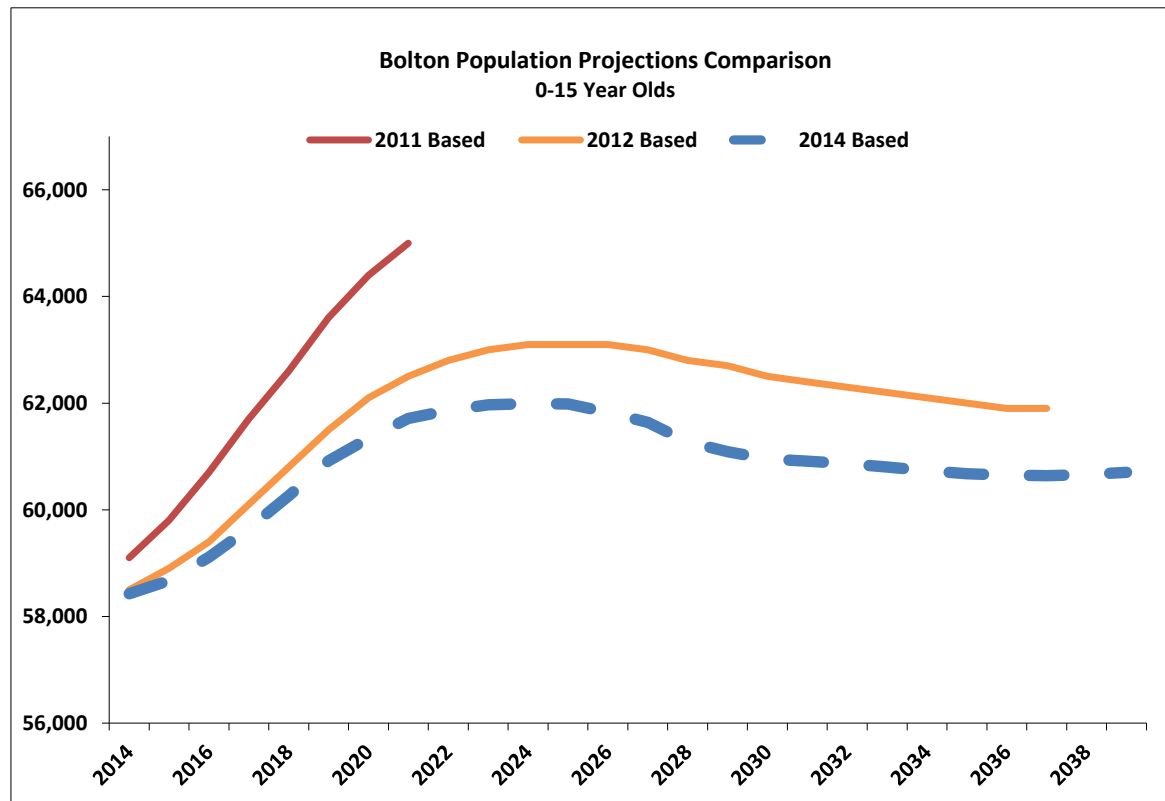
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2014-based Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.

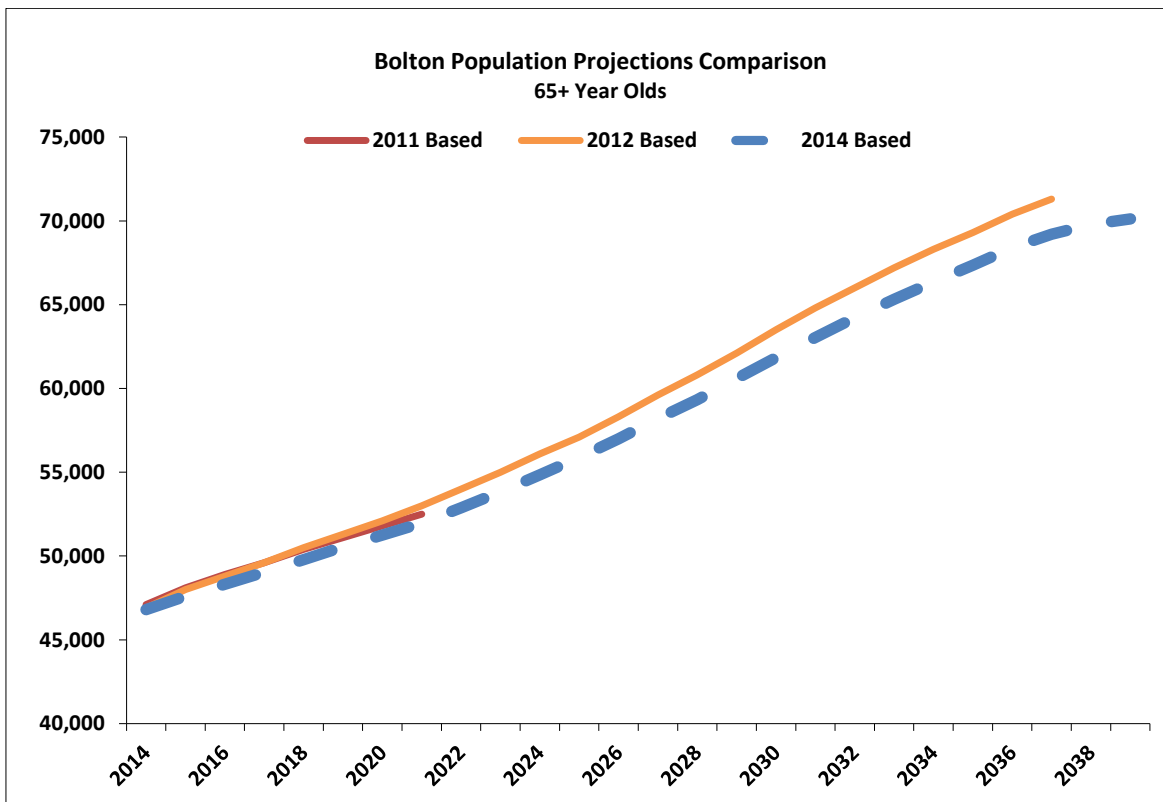
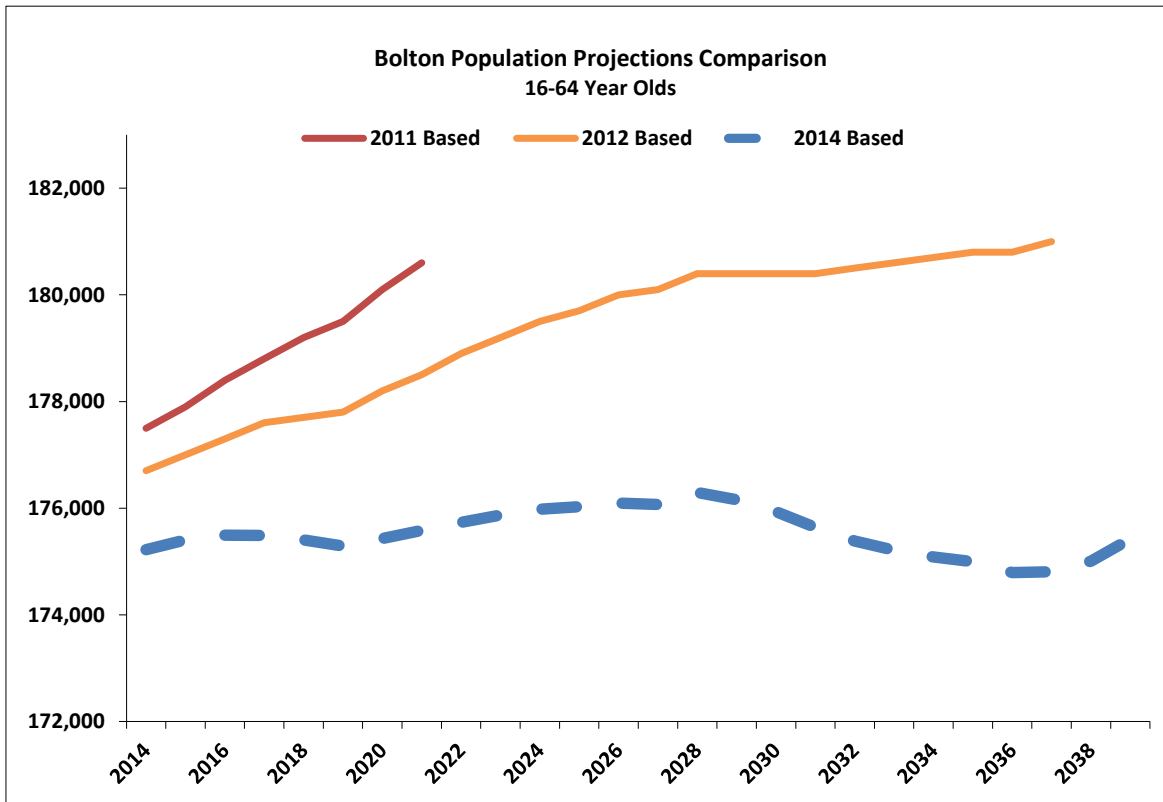
When looking at broad age groups the 2014-based SNPPs project significant changes from previous projections in a number of ways.

The 65+ population projections seem broadly in line with previous estimates, in that the fact that Bolton has an aging population has not changed (although the overall projection numbers themselves are slightly lower than previous estimates).

**0-15** population projections the 2014 SNPPs estimate significantly lower than both the 2011 & 2012 -based, then tapers off from around 2022 onwards (the 2011-based projections were not available for the same time period). However there are significant differences in the estimates of the **working age population**.

The 2014-based SNPPs project a significantly lower increase in the number of working age people than the 2012 & 2011-based. For instance the 2012-based projections estimated an increase of around 4,300 working age people, whereas the most recent 2014 projections only forecast a total increase of **200** for the same time period. It is likely that this is the result of changing assumptions of patterns of migration (see section 1.6 for more details).





Source: Office for National Statistics, Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.



## 1.6 Components of Change: Births, Deaths and Migration.

Population estimates are produced by calculating the numbers of births and deaths, and estimating the net population change through migration in and out of Bolton; Population projections are then made by 'projecting forward' population estimates to give an indication of future trends.

Registrations of births and deaths collected by the civil registration system at the General Register Office are used to calculate fertility and mortality rates. Internal migration estimates are based on administrative data. International migration estimates are based on data from the International Passenger Survey, together with asylum seeker data from the Home Office and National Asylum Support Service. The mid-2014 population estimates and the revised back series of population estimates, which are used in the calculation of trends, reflect the results of the 2011 Census.

	Bolton		England
<b>2014 Population</b>	<b>280,400</b>	-	-
<i>Births</i>	91,500	33%	32%
<i>Deaths</i>	-64,700	-23%	-23%
<b>Natural Change</b>	<b>27,100</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<i>Internal Migration Net</i>	-10,400	-4%	0%
<i>International Migration Net</i>	10,700	4%	8%
<i>Cross-Border Migration Net</i>	0	0%	0%
<b>All Migration Net</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Total Increase</b>	25,900	9%	17%
<b>2039 Population</b>	<b>306,300</b>	-	-

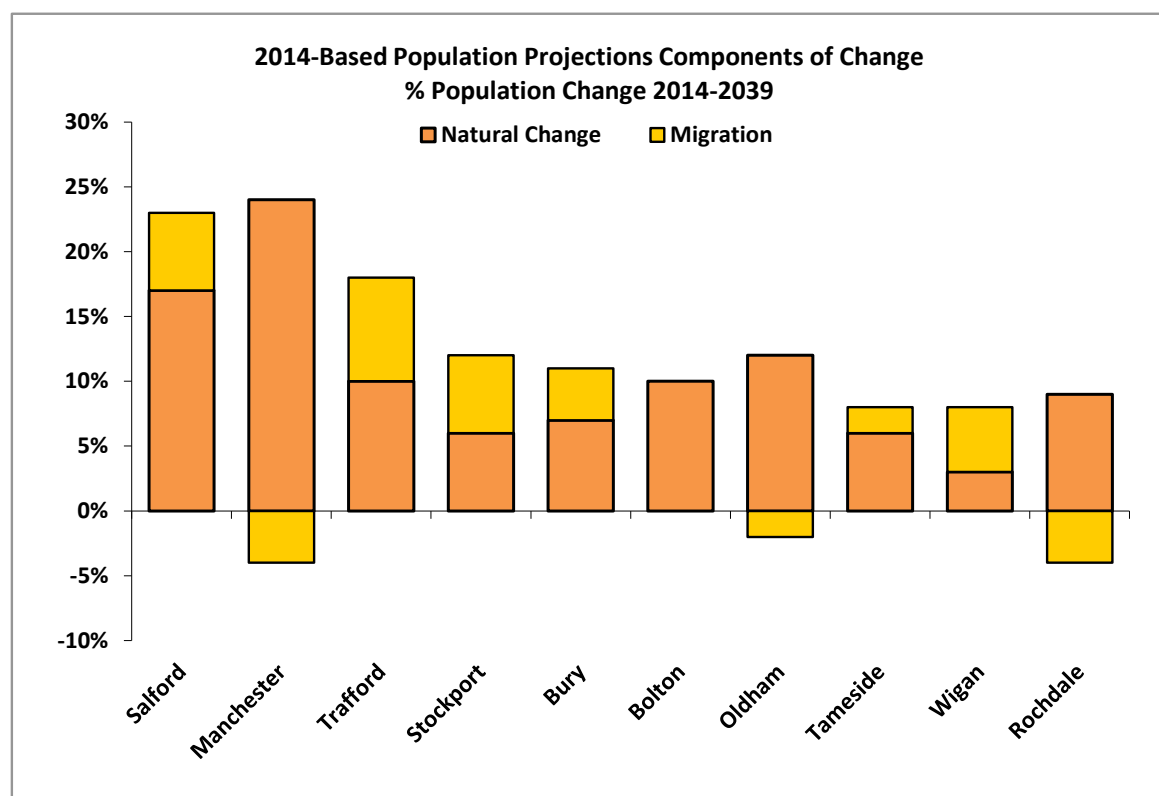
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2014-based Subnational Population Projections. Data is rounded to the nearest hundred.

Between 2014 and 2039 Bolton's overall population is estimated to increase by around 25,900 people. Bolton is projected to have a marginally higher birth rate than the national average and a fairly average mortality rate overall, meaning a projected **27,100** additional people as a result of natural change, (i.e. 27,100 more births than deaths). This resulted in a projected **10%** increase in the total population due to natural change, compared to an 8% increase in England.

However there was also a projected overall net decrease in the population of **-1,200** people due to migrational changes. Bolton is projected to gain approximately 10,700 migrants from other countries, but lose around 10,400 people who moved from Bolton to elsewhere in the UK. This

resulted in a projected overall decrease of **-0.4%** of the population due to migration<sup>1</sup>. This is a significant change from the previous 2012-based projections, where migration was estimated to contribute to a 2% increase in the population, or an extra 6,000 people overall. The 2014-estimates project both a higher rate of loss from internal movements and a lower rate of increase from international migrants, meaning that for the first time the impact of migration on Bolton’s projected population is basically nil. It is likely that changing patterns of migration will have accounted for the changing projections of working age population, as this is the age group which is most greatly impacted by changing patterns of movement.

Patterns of natural change & migration vary quite significantly across the Greater Manchester authorities. For instance **Manchester** has one of the largest overall increase in people in 2014-39, however this is all due to the large amounts natural change since large internal migration losses negate any increase in international migrants coming to Manchester, meaning that the impact of migrational change in Manchester is about -4% of the population. (**Oldham** and **Rochdale** also have similar patterns of losses). Conversely **Salford** is expected to have similarly larger gains in international migrants during that time period but is expected to suffer less of a decrease in internal migration, giving it a 6% boost in the population due to migration and a 23% increase overall. This is the largest such increase in Greater Manchester.



<sup>1</sup> Numbers in the table do not sum up due to rounding and adjustments to local authority estimates to match the nationally projected figures.